

The New Books

The books listed by title only in the classified list below are noted here as received. Many of them will be reviewed later.

Belles Lettres

THE NEW REGIONALISM IN AMERICAN LITERATURE. By CAREY MCWILLIAMS. Seattle: University of Washington Book Store. 1930. 65 cents.

In this subdued but yet pointed essay Mr. McWilliams neatly exposes the fallacies of the new regionalism, the "rash for regional writing" that remains as prevalent today throughout the south, the middle-west, and the far west as during the local color era. In state after state writers have organized for the conscious exploitation of local literary resources. New Mexico claims, through one of its leaders, "a separate and distinct poetic personality"; and so no doubt does Utah. South Dakota, in the amazement of self-discovery, produces remarkable dithyrambic verses:

*Bad lands? Glad lands!
Clay lands? Gay lands!
Sand lands? Grand lands!
Drear lands? Dear lands!*

Regionalism, new or old, is all too frequently an uncritical and unesthetic boosting of the local product. Where it is most vigorous it is least needed, for the native of any genuine region proclaims his origin, whether or not he wishes, in his turns of thought as decidedly as in his manner of speech. The organized movement tends toward a spurious, antiquarian regionalism in which writers labor with a supposed natural language (from which Mr. McWilliams has given a characteristic bit) rather than their own, and employ conventional local color instead of the life about them. In California, which harbors unnumbered aggressive regionalists, nothing is more pathetic than recently transplanted Iowans and Nebraskans attempting to be Spanish or Aztec.

Undoubtedly the intellectual life of the provinces needs development, a development which the regionalists will do less to advance than to retard until they have forgotten their delusive slogans. Meanwhile the movement is frozen into the position gravely attributed to it by one of its spokesmen: it has "its feet on the ground and its hands in the soil"—a posture sufficiently distressing to inspire audible vocal activity but hardly conducive to literary creation. In the serviceable survey with which Mr. McWilliams's essay opens some important and competent writers are named, the friendly shelter to which minor talents creep for protection.

Fiction

THESE GENERATIONS. By ELINOR MORDAUNT. Brewer & Warren. 1930. \$2.50.

Mrs. Mordaunt's new novel of a half English, half Spanish family living luxuriously on their plantation in Central America, though not an important book in any serious sense, glows with the sensuous beauty of the land it describes and unfolds a moderately engrossing story of romance and love and tragic death. From start to finish one feels the pull of the land's illusion, the "golden dust of midday, and the small fantastic Indians with their large hats and swinging plaits," the pulsing heat and the lure of cool patios where pale beauties sip citron pressé with soda and ice. One understands how this very beauty could rub one raw as it does the American hero when tragic reality reveals the fact that underneath all the languorous charm life is sombre, sensual and cruel. Mrs. Mordaunt knows the land of her setting and makes us feel its essence with a power that recalls Stevenson, and reminded this reader of one of his loveliest short stories called, "Olalla." But with her characters the author is less skilful, and it is evident that the land and people generally fascinate her far more than the problem of any individual.

The character of the old countess who really dominates the book, though the story revolves about the loves of two of her grandchildren, is just a bit forced. Her past life is reviewed in a sketchy manner that tends to confuse one, and when the book opens, Grandmère is living happily with her fourth husband, a dashing young Frenchman some thirty years her junior. Along with her four husbands it is hinted that the old lady has had a rather larger number of affairs; she has never been completely faithful to any man and now does not dream of demanding fidelity of her somewhat youthful spouse. She has a quick tongue and a somewhat robust humor, and is the despair of her children and grandchildren who passionately resent her habit of speaking her mind, and monopolizing the

interest and conversation of their guests. This at the beginning of the book; before the end the author has brought about a subtle change, and Grandmère is the presiding spirit to whom all the family turn for sympathy and help. She dies happily at the last, having lived her life courageously if a bit incredibly, unhampered by any regrets save those whose edges were softened by romantic memory. Though the character of the old countess is carried on from the author's previous novel, "Too Much Java," in the present novel she never approaches the excellence of such personages as Miss Stern's "Matriarch" or Walpole's old "Duchess of Wrexe." But for all that it is Grandmère who makes the story, and throughout she is charming and amusing, while about her two lovely grand-daughters, Felicia and Anna, the author has woven a believable and exciting tale.

BELSHAZZAR. By SIR H. RIDER HAGGARD. Doubleday, Doran. 1931.

To read at this date a new story by Sir H. Rider Haggard is to take a sentimental journey to one's youth. That was an astonishing series of romances that he turned out, fifty or sixty of them at least, and if they were most of them cut in similar pattern, they were nevertheless corking good yarns. Heroes were heroic, villains were villainous, and women were either beautiful and good or beautiful and bad, but anyway you knew just where you were with them. To curl up in an armchair in front of a fire with "King Solomon's Mines" or "Allan Quatermain" or "She" was to escape from a perplexing world and live for an hour in one that was simple and glamorous with adventure. It is an astonishing thing that, despite the revolution in public taste, Haggard was able to retain much of his old magic to the end, and even the sophisticates of the younger generation can find a thrill in this posthumous romance from the pen of the gallant old Victorian who never departed from the Victorian manner.

THE ADVERSARY IN TOMIKA. By G. V. HAMILTON in collaboration with MARY REYNOLDS. Sears. 1930. \$2.

Tomika is a small country town in the hills, north of the Ohio river, either in Pennsylvania or Ohio. The Adversary is God: "The blind, stupid, cruel, inflexible Enemy of mankind." As a substitute for God, local tradition has developed a non-theological deity, a sort of ethical force, called the Goodman: "Ages ago the Goodman, knowing God to be the Adversary, rebelled against Him and set up a kingdom in which all is love and anarchy." With this odd creed as a background, G. V. Hamilton and Mary Reynolds tell a strange story of illegitimacy, frustration, and self-destruction. A minister seduces his best friend's wife; the child that is born becomes, forty years later, a dissatisfied artist, marries, but only to find in a little while that he loves his wife's half-sister; the narrative ends in a double suicide. Thus the evil nature of the Adversary is demonstrated.

The collaborating authors have cast this somewhat disagreeable plot into a highly eccentric form. Most of the narrative is developed through dialogue, regulation dramatic dialogue, with straight prose interspersed here and there. It is difficult to see any particular merit in this departure from convention, though Mr. Hamilton, in a preliminary Author's Note, says: "In telling this story I have followed as closely as possible the method used by the old women from whom I got its essential features when I was a little boy. When one of them had a long story to tell she gave it in dialogue. . . ."

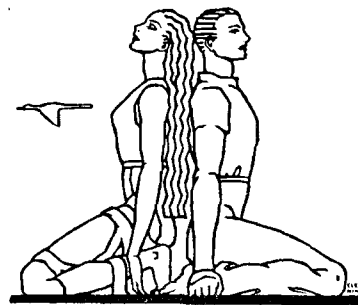
Although the book is heavy and ungainly, we cannot deny the collaborators' earnest sincerity. But for the success of such an avowedly defeatist document, a good deal more artistry was necessary than Mr. Hamilton and Miss Reynolds evidently possessed.

Juvenile

THE GREEN DOOR. By ELIZA ORNE WHITE. Houghton Mifflin. 1930. \$2.

Between gay green covers, with attractive page and clear, readable type, is this not very important but enjoyable story of a little girl, her family, and a few of her friends. The book has the virtue of natural characters who speak and act like real persons. Hazel, the heroine, is a rather precocious child, but not in an unpleasant way; you feel, and indeed the author implies occasionally, that she is more interesting than the average child and will, if all goes well,

(Continued on next page)



This Our Exile

by
David Burnham

A brilliant first novel of American family and college life. The background is suburban Chicago, New York, and undergraduate Princeton; the story that of a group of sensitive, over-civilized people and their reactions in a time of tremendous emotional stress. It introduces to American letters a fine, new talent.

423 pages. \$2.50

One-Volume Edition

The World Crisis

1914-1918

by **Winston S. Churchill**

author of "A Roving Commission," etc.

This internationally famous war history, formerly available only in four separate books, is now published in one 850-page volume. The author has cleared the decks of official memoranda, special personal discussions, and the like, and has added much new material—especially on the great opening battles in France.

With maps and plans. \$5.00

Lincoln and His Cabinet

by **Clarence Edward Macartney**

author of "Lincoln and His Generals," etc.

Eight vivid portraits of Civil War statesmen and a brilliant new picture of Lincoln the leader of men.

Illustrated. 388 pages. \$3.50

The Light That Never Was

by **Katharine Fullerton Gerould**

author of "Conquistador"

The eventful romance of a girl who wanted a glimpse of "the light that never was" before she settled down, and the man who responded to her mood.

237 pages. \$2.00

Wilson The Unknown

by **Wells Wells**

This "Explanation of an Enigma of History" satisfactorily clarifies the many inconsistencies of Woodrow Wilson's career, and throws a strong light on the leading events of his administration.

358 pages. \$2.50

These Russians

by **William C. White**

"We should rate the book high among those which have something unprejudiced, definitely informing and thoroughly interesting to impart on contemporary Russia and her people."

—New York World.

376 pages. \$3.00

Three large printings in Four Days

Festival

by
Struthers Burt

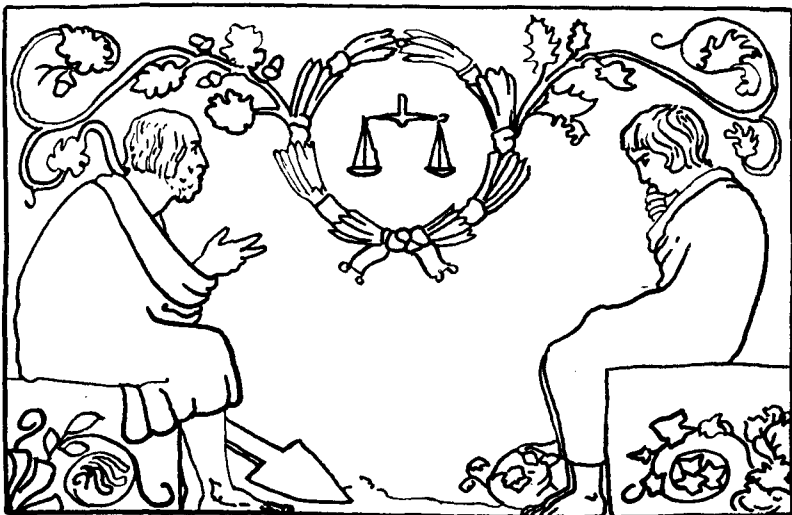
author of "The Interpreter's House," "The Delectable Mountains," etc.

"It is a fine and vigorous work of fiction, it contains prose both brilliant and strong, it flashes with epigrams which are vital and trenchant criticisms of modern life. 'Festival' is a novel that can be recommended without reservations."—Milwaukee Journal.

388 pages. \$2.50

at your bookstore

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, NEW YORK



G. LOWES DICKINSON brings Plato back to earth

G. Lowes Dickinson—whose *Greek View of Life* and *A Modern Symposium* are modern classics—is foremost among those who interpret the ideas of philosophers to the needs of the individual. His name is a guarantee of the beauty, the distinction, the inspiration of his new book.

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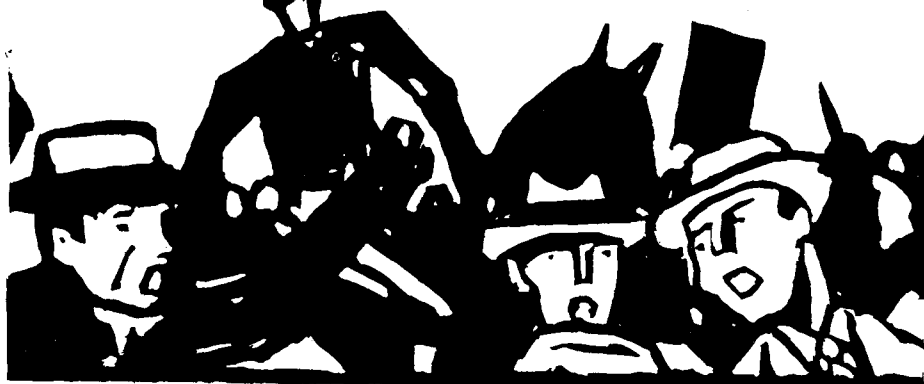
by GRAHAM GREENE

Here is Graham Greene's second novel. His first, *The Man Within*, will be remembered for the rousing critical comment is evoked, such as this from *The Saturday Review*:

• Even
more
brilliant
than
THE MAN
WITHIN

"The strength of his *Excalibur* is literary integrity . . . his story is tragic but credible—a long, adventurous road of the human spirit."

In England they are calling this novel "more than a worthy successor." It is a penetrating analysis of character set, as before, against a turbulent background . . . a brilliant melodrama of the senses as ageless as women at the heart of intrigue.



\$2.50

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN

The New Books

Juvenile

(Continued from preceding page)

grow up to be an ornament to the writing profession. Meanwhile she has experiences not very different from those of average children, getting into trouble and out again as children do. The illustrations—scissor cut-outs by Lisl Hummel—add to the attractiveness of the book but confuse one a little because they show a child of at most four or five rather than a little girl of six or seven.

WITH PACK AND SADDLE. By LAWTON B. EVANS. Springfield, Mass.: Milton Bradley. 1930. \$1.75.

The subtitle of Mr. Evans's book for juniors is "Famous American Frontier Stories." There are upwards of forty chapters, but the chapters are short and are upon themes so selected as to present motion pictures of American settlement and border life in practically every phase, from that of early California and Kentucky to that of the plains and mountains. Chapters such as "California Missions," "The Wilderness Trail," "Down the Ohio," "Up the Mississippi," "Indian Trails," "The Santa Fé Trail," the Astor chapter, "A Fortune in Fur," "The Pathfinder" (Frémont), "Westward, Ho!," "The Cow Pony," and so on, are in the main descriptive narrative, but there are action and incident chapters, such as "The Old Miner's Story," "Boone is Taken Prisoner," "Holding Up the Stage," "The Wolf Pack," "The Sheep Dog's Story," "Outwitting the Cattle Thieves," and occasionally the author appears to be telling an experience of his own. "With Pack and Saddle" is to be commended for its range of topics and for its simple, direct style of narrative. The full page illustrations in black and white by R. A. Ewing are not only spirited but accurate.

Miscellaneous

- SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By Harry J. Carman. Heath. \$4.
LABOR AND LUMBER. By Charlotte Todes. International. \$2.
LABOR AND TEXTILES. By Robert W. Dunn and Jack Hardy. International. \$2.
LABOR AND COAL. By Anna Rochester. International. \$2.
CONTEMPORARY SPEECHES. Compiled by James W. O'Neill and Floyd K. Reilly. Century. \$2.50.
THE CARE AND REPAIR OF THE HOME. By Vincent B. Phelan. Doubleday, Doran. \$1.50.
THE LIBERTY BELLS OF PENNSYLVANIA. By John Baer Stoult. Philadelphia: Campbell. \$5.
THE AMERICAN FLAG. By Robert Philips. Stratford. \$2.
THE TWELVE WINDED SKY. By E. L. Woodward. \$2.50.
BRIDGE DECISIONS. By David H. Van Damm. Putnam. \$1.50.
THE WORKERS' SHARE. By A. W. Humphrey. London: Allen & Unwin.
NOW WE'RE LOGGIN'. By Paul Hosmer. Cosmopolitan. \$2.
THE CIRCUS IN LITERATURE. By Leonidas Westervelt. Privately printed.
AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY. Compiled by Daniel Sommer Robinson. Crowell. \$4.50.
H. H. OR THE PATHOLOGY OF PRINCES. By Kamhayalal Gaubo. Lahore: Jinnes Publishing Co.
ZOOM. By George R. White. Longmans, Green. \$1.50.
SPEECH CRAFT. By Elsie Fogarty. Dutton. \$1.25.
YOUR VISION AND HOW TO KEEP IT. By H. G. Merrill and L. W. Oaks. Putnam. \$1.50.
UPHILL STEPS IN INDIA. By M. L. Christlieb. Houghton Mifflin. \$2.
BODY. By Daniel Quilter. Autographic Editions Club.
WHITTIER'S USE OF THE BIBLE. By James Stoeck Stevens. Orono, Me.: University Press.

Science

SCIENCE AND FAITH or THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF SCIENCE. By HUGH W. SANFORD. Putnam's. 1930. 2 vols.

Mr. Hugh W. Sanford is the author of a previous sociological work entitled "The Business of Life" which elicited the valuable praise of Charles W. Eliot of Harvard and C. H. Cooley of Michigan. In "Science and Faith" he has attempted a higher flight into the realm of metaphysics. Here his speculations are bold, not to say bizarre; the results are more interesting than convincing. Starting from the apparent dualism of mind and matter, he endeavors to show that the two are opposites, and to prove that the evolution of mind is correlative with an involution and actual disappearance of matter; the whole process is supposed to have been initiated by a Spiritual Cause and to terminate in the spiritual perfection of the universe. In the course of his arguments he runs foul of both the old and the new physics and finds himself obliged to origi-

nate his own explanations of gravitation, kinetic energy, and light, as well as to correct the application of mathematical concepts to physics—all of which he cheerfully does. He wanders all over the universal lot and back again, but in the course of his fruitless journeying he does let fall many a shrewd comment on various features of the landscape. His spirited tilts with nearly every scientist or philosopher whom he meets on the way make his work a kind of philosophical "Orlando Furioso" in which there is much flashing sword play of real argument along with even more wild riding on winged coursers of the air.

AMBER TO AMPERES, the Story of Electricity. By ERNEST GREENWOOD. Harpers. 1931. \$4.

The history of electricity, if it ever comes to be written in anything like its fulness and complexity, may well turn out to be the history of the cosmos both of the infinitely little and of the immeasurably vast. For at bottom—if so we may interpret the labors of men like Rutherford, Sir J. J. Thomson, Niels Bohr, Millikan, Heisenberg, and many others—at bottom "electricity" is but a name describing what might be called the "action patterns of a speck so minute that the entire population of the globe, counting day and night, would require two years to number the specks passing through an electric light filament in one second. And yet these mid-gets, these bacteria of the inorganic, by their intricate dance-play with one another, seem at present (for science is very humble these days) to be responsible for all that we know as "reality"; from the first stirrings of consciousness in an imbecile or an Einstein to each of the thirty million "island universes" among which our own so nonchalantly drifts.

There is, however, small likelihood of such a history being outlined within less than several geologic epochs, even assuming that the specks are still arranged in the form known as "Homo sapiens." And such fragmentary chapters as we now have are so crowded with the bewildering—and often bewildered—hieroglyphics of the mathematicians that the layman hurriedly excuses himself—in order to turn on his radio for an hour of song and dance conveyed to him through several hundred miles of blank air.

The present volume by Ernest Greenwood is—more or less deliberately—written for the layman—whose other name is Legion. It is a readable, well documented, and informative account of the technological—as opposed to the scientific—development of electricity. The captionesque title cleverly indicates both the matter and the manner of the book which the author of "Aladdin, U. S. A." and "Prometheus, U. S. A." now offers us: we are to be told some of the ways in which this amazing force was explored and studied during the past three thousand years—but much more of the ways in which it has come to be exploited, "to the greater glory of Man." Those of a studious and analytic mind are warned that the emphasis is always upon the *practical*, with a dash of flag-waving, and much sturdy optimism for both present and future.

Mr. Greenwood opens with a chapter on Thales, the Greek philosopher who first noticed in amber the property since called by its Greek name. This, and the next chapter on the "Philosopher's Stone," give the "historical" background; somewhat chatty, but well enough for the purpose. Then comes an account of magnetism, leading up to the inevitable Franklin, whose shrewd and undeniably acute genius led the way to the future science of electro-magnetism and physics. The reader is not inconvenienced by too much talk of Dalton, Lavoisier, Faraday, and other pioneers of this science, but led at once to a narrative of the struggles to harness the force which Franklin had so briefly trapped. An appendix on the incandescent lamp, a bibliography, and a few so-so illustrations fill out the book, which is written in a simple, pedestrian style, carefully pruned of all reference to abstract or highly technical matter that might lead the unwary reader into complicated states of mind.

Books Briefly Described

CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT OF INDIA. By A. C. UNDERWOOD. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1931. \$2.50.

A summary of the philosophical attitudes of the various individuals and parties in contemporary India.

CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT OF GERMANY. Volume I. By W. TUDOR JONES. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1931. \$2.50.

A general survey of German thought from Kant through Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and on to the present day.

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